

JUSTICE AND MERCY

IN his historic speech at Guildhall Mr Churchill said that the United Nations demand from the Nazi, Fascist, and Japanese tyrannies unconditional surrender. "By that we mean," he went on, "that their will power to resist must be completely broken and that they must yield themselves absolutely to our justice and mercy."

To our Justice and Mercy!

A thousand years of British history guarantee the sincerity of these words, grudgingly acknowledged even by our enemies.

We are no cruel, arrogant tyrants; we do not impose our own ways of life on mankind. To live and let live is our national motto, undeclared, but implicit in our character and conduct.

Kultur Versus Culture

There is a phrase, heard with happy frequency, "essential British decency," which observers not of our own race have coined as an epitome of our qualities. Nazi-Fascist propagandists are hoarse with strident denials of its appropriateness. Count von Arnim, when leader recently of the forces of our foes in North Africa, issued an order of the day warning his armies against belief in the phrase, and bidding them cherish "cold hatred" of us. Now a captive in England, the Count will doubtless discover that "decency" remains fundamental in the British temperament.

There must be something inherently decent and amiable in the nature of a people who, since the turbulent days of Henry V, five centuries ago, have never once engaged in a war of aggression. We have fought all the Great Powers, but we may truly claim that we have never flung down the gauntlet either to provoke a conflict or to gain addition to territory.

THE Nazis boast of kultur; we claim to have a kindly, tolerant culture, fostered by nearly a thousand years of freedom from invasion. Never since classical Greece fell had there been such an outburst of intellectual riches as glorified the reign of Queen Elizabeth, yet that incomparable flowering time was the period of our greatest national danger. For 15 years Spain, with the mightiest army in the world, was seeking to invade us. Genius glowed behind the invincible little British Navy.

The centuries of safety at home that we enjoyed, with our ships guarding the seas, and land-fighting abroad confined to small British armies, afforded the nation limitless leisure for steady self-development, for the perfecting of its Parliamentary system, and for the inculcation of the doctrine of freedom in speech, action, and religion. The British mellowed into the decency that our foreign admirers applaud while other peoples were held in the grip of enveloping war, themselves subject to oppression which, when the time came, they were but too ready to inflict upon their victims.

The Nazi Pattern and Hero

The difference between this decent British disposition towards life and living and that of the Nazis, who avowedly make Frederick, miscalled the Great, their pattern and hero, may be briefly contrasted. Modest over their achievements, the British people abhor war, but they have ever kept their word, and always redeemed their pledges to their allies.

Frederick anticipated Japan in murderous duplicity. Making unannounced war on a friendly nation, he began a struggle so frightful that, lasting seven years, it brought his people to starvation and their villages to solitude, and caused the death of one-tenth of the Prussian population. What was Frederick's excuse or explanation? Neither Hitler's serpent tongue nor Mussolini's could add cynical wantonness to it. He said, "Ambition, interest, the desire of making people talk about me, carried the day, and I decided for war."

PERHAPS our Hundred Years' War in France, followed by the Wars of the Roses that succeeded the return home of our nobles and soldiers, who knew no industry but that of arms, proved to us the folly of our ancient passion for continuity of conflict, for, although we advanced step by step to possession of one quarter of the world, we became an Empire less notable for intrigue and militancy than for open diplomacy and abiding good fellowship.

We have engaged in many wars, but, with the issues decided, wrong righted, justice vindicated, a disputed territory gained, or restored to those from whom, in the stress of conflict, we took it, we have always extended the hand of fellowship, and pursued our way in amity.

We had our disputes with Holland, but they offered Queen Elizabeth their throne, as Ivan the Terrible offered her his hand and heart. Cromwell had his war with a Holland grown great and intolerant; but, when aiming at a Protestant Alliance, he was ready to combine Britain and Holland in a single Commonwealth. His terms were not unlike the language employed by Mr Winston Churchill during the dread days of June, three years ago. Striving to sustain the heart of swooning France, Mr Churchill proposed the merging of the two nations in a Franco-British Union, with every Briton a citizen of France, and every citizen of France enjoying citizenship of Great Britain.

The British Code

Here are two examples of our code in great things and small. Having subjugated the Boer Republics, we awarded them not only a constitution as liberal as our own, but a gift of £3,000,000 for the restoration of their war-damaged homes.

The second concerns Venezuela, where, half a century ago, an Arbitration Commission fixed the boundary between that Republic and British Guiana. A difficult point was settled by the Commission's acceptance of the evidence of a tribe among whom ran the immemorial axiom, "*If you pass that river you are safe!*" Beyond that river the persecuted entered the territory of a people animated by "essential British decency."

Such things, passing Nazi understanding, are products of the habitual generosity of character with which impartial nations credit us.

Inhumanity and lust of vengeance are alien and hateful to the British temper. If a poet-seer of Empire has not misread the evidence,

*Time and the ocean and some fostering star
In high cabal have made us what we are.*

Now the world has the Prime Minister's word that our aims and aspirations shall continue to be based on Justice and Mercy.

EVERY
TUESDAY
3d

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

POSTAGE
Inland 1d
Abroad 1d
No 1271

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



Apple Time

A helper from one of Surrey's War Agricultural Camps picking apples on Mr Lloyd George's estate at Churt

Ngagi, the Giant Gorilla

A GORILLA census has been taken in America from which it appears that the U S has 17, most of them in zoos and two in a travelling circus. It also has, as might be expected, the biggest, which is named Ngagi and is the pride of San Diego.

Ngagi weighs 636 lbs, which is heavier than the biggest lion ever shot by Mr Selous by nearly a hundredweight, and is 5 feet 8 inches tall when prevailed upon to stand. Most of his wak-

ing time is spent in an aldermanic position, and his only exercise appears to be in pushing himself away from the dinner table. He is a strict vegetarian, and with fingers as big round as a girl's wrist delicately removes every speck of dirt from his food, after peeling his carrots, potatoes, apples, oranges, and unripe bananas.

Some of us in England now might envy Ngagi's fare, and he certainly enjoys every bit of it.

STALIN'S TEA

RUSSIAN tea is only a memory to those of us who have to do their best on Lord Woolton's weekly allowance of two ounces of tea that certainly cannot have come out of China or Russia.

When peace comes, however, we may enjoy genuine Russian tea from Georgia, for tea is growing there in places once thought so sterile that the peasants were ordered away.

By 1940 there were 60,000 farmsteads united in collective farms

in this hot and humid land, and tea is one of the things they have at last succeeded in growing. At first the tea plant withered in the heat, but Professor Peter Shiet outwitted nature by planting alongside it a special variety of sweet corn which sheltered the newcomer, helping it to endure the new climate and strange soil, and yet leaving enough sun for life and growth.

We may yet drink Stalin's health in a cup of Georgian tea.

Parliament and the Schools

AFTER long years of inadequate attention, Parliament is coming to realise that no more important subject demands its attention than the welfare and training of our children. It was as long ago as 1870 that Mr Gladstone's first government gave the nation its first elementary education act. Now, after 74 years, our war government intends to present to Parliament a bill dealing with every phase of education.

Before introducing the parliamentary bill, the Government has published a White Paper to form a basis for discussion, in the hope that a considerable measure of agreement upon moot points will be secured before the new education bill is actually introduced into the House of Commons. Our boys and girls will themselves be glad to know what is being argued about them; their future welfare as citizens of a great nation is at stake.

School-Leaving Age

In the first place, there is the matter of the school-leaving age. At the present time, attendance at school is compulsory for all children up to 14 years of age. The intention now is to raise the compulsory age of attendance to 15 as soon as possible after the war, and to follow this by a further extension to 16.

More than that is proposed; even at 16 a child cannot be said to be fully prepared for entry into the working life, to choose and enter a trade, and to begin to earn its living. Some day, no doubt, proper arrangements will be made to help children to choose the employment they wish to follow, with the aid of their parents and friends; and without further delay, it is thought, the period of compulsory general education up to 16 should be followed by a further period of two or three years—that is, up to the age of 18—in which the child will be expected to submit to part-time technical education. Employers will be expected to make this possible by releasing youthful workers aged up to 18 to enable them to attend compulsory continuation schools for perhaps three attendances a week.

Technical Education

These continuation schools will be arranged by the local education authorities, who would submit their schemes for technical education to the Minister of Education. Such classes would naturally give priority to training for local industries.

At present we speak of "elementary" and "secondary" schools. It is proposed to substitute for these terms a conception of "primary" and "post-primary" education. Up to the age of 11 children will go to the primary schools, but all of them on reaching 11 will proceed to post-primary schools, which will give them an education of the present secondary standard. Secondary schools will be of several types; they will be free to all. As to very little children, nursery schools will be established all over the country, provided with trained teachers.

Then comes the very important question of school meals. As we all know, the war has seen a great extension of school meals, and it is understood that the Board of Education now aims ultimately to provide mid-day

meals at school for all boys and girls. There can be no question that their effects upon growing children must be profound.

We now pass to the question of religious education, which raises some points of difficulty. The Government's decision is that the voluntary denominational school system will be maintained under a dual scheme which provides for more aid from public funds with a proportionate increase in public control.

Voluntary school managers will have two alternative choices:

If the managers cannot find half the cost of improvements to bring their schools up to modern educational standards, the local education authorities will pay for the required repairs and alterations and appoint teachers, but consult the managers about the appointment of headmasters. Two-thirds of the managers will be appointed by the local authority instead of one-third. The religious instruction given will follow an agreed syllabus, but twice a week there will be denominational instruction by specially approved reserve teachers for children whose parents desire it.

Out-of-Date Buildings

If, however, the managers can meet half the costs of improvement, the Government will pay for the remainder. The managers would then retain their rights to appoint teachers and to give denominational instruction.

It is stated that nine-tenths of the voluntary schools were built in or before 1902, and that they need much capital expenditure to bring them up to date.

A word as to private schools. Few people realise that there are 10,000 of these in the country, and that many of them by no means conform to modern educational requirements. The new bill will only allow such institutions to exist if they conform to modern requirements and agree to inspection.

The cost of all these reforms would be about £67,000,000 a year, for they call for 60,000 more teachers to enable us to decrease the size of classes, and for better training for teachers.

Young People's Colleges

The introduction of compulsory part-time schooling for all young people up to 18 makes it necessary to set up efficient buildings to be called Young People's Colleges. Their curriculum will cover physical training, guidance in health and hygiene, training in expression, and citizenship.

The process of thus submitting a general scheme for public discussion and approval before the actual text of a Parliament Bill is drawn up is much to be commended, and we hope the appearance of the Government White Paper will lead to proper and responsible criticism of its proposals and suggestions.

LITTLE NEWS REELS

ALTHOUGH before the war Canada's shipbuilding industry was practically non-existent the Dominion last year produced merchant ships and warships of a million tons.

The Ministry of Supply is to make a geological survey of Cornwall's mineral reserves, seeking sources of tin, arsenic, and tungsten.

Sir Patrick Duncan, who has died at Pretoria at the age of 72, was the first South African statesman to become Governor-General of the Union.

Half of Britain's flour and three-quarters of our bacon comes from Canada in addition to huge quantities of cheese, canned fish, dried eggs, and other foods.

A 4.7 inch anti-aircraft gun now being supplied to the U.S. Army can fire shells to a height of 60,000 feet, higher than any aeroplane in service can fly.

BRITISH Overseas Airways flew nearly 11 million miles during 1942; American air lines flew over 8 million miles in one month alone.

The first high-speed fighter to be designed in Australia is now being tested.

There are now 1,700,000 allotments in this country as against 930,000 before the war.

Just before they leave school Sheffield boys and girls are shown a film illustrating how they can continue their education for another five years without cost in further education establishments.

British Civil Service employees have presented to Leningrad an X-ray machine of the latest type.

Youth News Reel

Scouts of the 1st Little Heath and Potters Bar (Herts) Group have collected ration books for people unable to do so themselves.

Thirteen-year-old Patrol Leader Christopher Stow has been awarded the Scout Certificate of Gallantry for going to the rescue of a soldier in difficulties while swimming.

The Cornwall Scout Certificate has been awarded to Scout Ronald Clempson (152nd North London Troop) who, stricken suddenly blind and paralysed in both legs and one arm, has borne months of pain with remarkable fortitude.

A FORMER Scout, Acting Wing Commander H. F. Burton, has won the DSO, having already received the DFC and Bar.

Two 16-year-old Australians, Alan Hunt and Leonard Henry Twomey, of the 1st Brisbane Company, have been awarded the Boys Brigade Diploma for Gallant Conduct for entering a burning building and leading several elderly residents to safety.

THINGS SEEN

A soldier, having just drawn his tea rations, stopping in the street to give a piece of cake to a little boy.

All the munition workers returning from a night-shift in a North Country bus sound asleep.

A man walking in a Balham street with a red-coated monkey on a lead.

The Flowing Tide of War

FEW months in recent years have been so full of hope for the future as this July now drawing to its close.

Surprising successes have been won by the Forces of the United Nations all over the world, and in our own beloved country there have been published schemes which will make life much happier in the approaching great days of Peace. Of these National schemes we read elsewhere in the CN; here we glance briefly at those great deeds by land and air and sea which are making this bright future possible, not only for ourselves, but for all the world. For good news has come from the Pacific, Russia, and Italy.

In the Pacific, American and British warships have shattered Japanese squadrons attempting to relieve beleaguered New Georgia in the Solomon Islands; while in New Guinea the Allied armies have continued to advance and have captured Mubo.

In Russia the powerful blow delivered by the Germans from their Orel salient have not only been checked, but the Russians have actually gained ground in this threatening sector. So confident, too, are the Russians in their strength that they have launched new attacks at four other points on their long front.

The onslaught by British and American Forces on Italy has been devastating. Home-based bombers have successfully attacked electric power centres in the north, while American and British bombers from Africa have rained destruction on the war-factories and marshalling yards of Rome and Naples. Reggio and Messina, facing each other across the straits dividing Italy from Sicily, have also been severely damaged by unceasing air attack.

Within a week of the historic landing one-third of Sicily was in

the hands of the Allied armies, warships helping the advance along the coast.

There has been much hard fighting here, and the airborne troops especially have won laurels in their desperate adventures.

As a result the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes float side by side over the principal buildings in many a Sicilian township and village, symbols of the authority of the Allied Military Government of Occupied Territory—AMGOT.

The prompt appointment of General Alexander by General Eisenhower as Military Governor of Sicily indicated remarkable confidence in Allied ability to open up without much delay not only this but other doors leading into Hitler's "impregnable fortress of Europe."

It is fitting that Major-General Lord Rennell of Rodd should be the Chief Civil Affairs Officer of AMGOT, for he is the eldest son of the man who was our Ambassador at Rome from 1908 to 1919. That charming scholar, who died recently, knew and loved the Italy which so many of us knew and loved before Mussolini and his thugs disgraced her name, and his son was also, and still is, a friend of the true Italy. Under the rule of General Alexander and Lord Rennell the civilian population will be "free to go about their normal vocations without fear" as the first proclamation declared.

This freedom was promised to all Italians in the broadcast message from President Roosevelt and Mr Churchill, calling on them to overthrow their "false and corrupt leaders" and "live for Italy and for civilisation."

STARVING GREECE

THE cost of living in Greece has reached such fantastic prices that many of the most vital necessities are out of reach of poor people. 4½ ounces of bread are distributed to each person daily. The population now depends on the public kitchens, and the only hope is that they will be able to continue, otherwise mortality will again rise to terrifying heights. The reserves of strength are no longer there, and everywhere one sees nothing but emaciated, exhausted faces, and those who were not strong are no longer there. In spite of this the people retain their splendid courage, and their faith is unswerving.

The Greek War Relief Association working from America through Sweden and Switzerland has 500 inspectors who visit the districts to check the work of

1600 local committees and have full authority to stop distribution if there are any abuses.

The most pressing needs now are for proteins, milk, vitamins, medicine, and clothing, it declares, stressing that the 300 tons of milk sent each month are being reserved for children and hospitals.

Bread and soup—when the latter is obtainable—are the only rations of food in Greece, says the Association, adding that the policy of allowing each person about four pounds and four ounces of gruel, flour, and other foodstuffs during last November had relieved the pressure on the soup kitchens.

Medicines are stored and distributed under the control of the Swiss Red Cross Commission, and more than £20,000 worth of medical supplies have been sent.

The Bastille of Today

ONCE again there is a Bastille: it is a prison moated by the waters of the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, holding captive the tortured millions of Europe. And once again this Bastille stands as a symbol of tyrannical persecution. But we have not fallen back to the days of 1789 when the men of France were alone in their struggle. Today free men of free countries are marching shoulder to shoulder

to tear down the Bastille of Hitlerian Europe. I cannot say when this hated Bastille will fall, but fall it will, and with its fall will come freedom for its prisoners. And in the morrow of our hopes . . . let us go forward in peace as we did in our adversity—as united fellow citizens in a free world.

General Smuts, speaking on French National Day, July 14.

The Children's Newspaper, July 31, 1943

Shipping North Africa to Britain

Now that Algeria and Tunisia have been restored to freedom, many people are asking what we can get from them to help the war effort.

The answer is surprising. The Duke of Norfolk gave it the other day in the House of Lords.

The Duke is Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, and he told his fellow-peers about large quantities of North Africa itself being shipped to Britain in the form of phosphatic rock for the production of superphosphates to enrich our soil and foster our crops. The romantic story of this kind of fertiliser, and of the discovery of phosphate rocks on Nauru Island, was told in last week's CN.

Algeria particularly is a very important source of phosphate production, and it was one of the tasks of Axis agents to get as much of this vitally essential pro-

duct out of North Africa to assist their own farm production, and other kinds of war industry, too. When the Allies landed in Algeria this traffic ceased at once, and it was one of the bitterest blows Hitler and Mussolini had suffered in their plans for future self-sufficiency. We were not as hard-pressed as Italy and Germany for fertilisers and other phosphate products; but we had none to spare, and the new supplies are exceptionally welcome.

That is why, though we might like to see our ships return from North Africa with fruit and other pleasant additions to our bill of fare, we must be well content for them to bring back solid lumps of North Africa instead. For it is from these very lumps that our soil will be made more fertile and our power increased to fight and endure until Victory comes.

ALL ARE AFFECTED

Switzerland, that oasis of peace in a continent at war, has listened with sympathy to appeals from all over Europe; and now her own supplies are beginning to run out.

A clothing card for an entire year has not enough points to buy a man's suit or winter overcoat.

COINCIDENCE

A Folkestone man serving in North Africa has told how he picked up a sheet of newspaper in the Rue de Paris, Tunis, and was amazed to find that it had come from an April issue of a weekly paper published in his own home town! He adds that he has been trying ever since to find the Folkestonian who dropped the paper.

THE ATLANTIC AIRWAY

What are the prospects of cheap flying trips across the Atlantic after the war?

According to Mr Harold Cray, the Vice-President of United Air Lines, post-war travellers will be able to fly the Atlantic in ten hours for £25. This and similar flights at home and abroad should give commerce a new technique of communication, enabling business to be conducted personally as never before in the world.

It is stated that plans are already complete in America for a four-engined passenger plane which will cruise at 250 miles an hour and carry 45 passengers. Plans are also developing for planes to carry 100 passengers. Thus the Atlantic airway is likely to become very busy.

Sergeant Smith Sees It Through

AMERICA'S highest military award, the Congressional Medal of Honour, has been bestowed on Staff-Sergeant Maynard Smith for exceptional bravery in a Flying Fortress during a raid on St Nazaire. Sergeant Smith, who is a gunner in the U.S. Army Air Force, is now entitled to a salute from every soldier in the American forces, from general to private.

Sergeant Smith's Flying Fortress was returning after the raid on May 1 so badly hit that several fires had broken out. Two of the crew were seriously wounded, and three had baled

out, but Smith, who was on his first raid, decided to stay and see what he could do. He gave first aid to the wounded tail-gunner; he manned the guns until all enemy fighters had vanished, and he threw exploding ammunition overboard. In between times he fought the fires, and at last managed to put them out. Thus did this gallant gunner save the Flying Fortress and the lives of six comrades.

Sergeant Smith was decorated by Mr Henry Stimson, U.S. Secretary of War, at a bomber station in Britain, with a Flying Fortress as a fitting background.

TWELVE WOODEN SHOES

Six children of Rossendale, Lancashire, were chosen to try out the new wooden-soled shoes which are now being produced somewhere in the North-West.

Doctors afterwards examined the children's feet, and shoe-experts examined the shoes, with the result that before long children all over the country will be clattering to school on wooden soles, and mothers everywhere will be hoping that wood is more immune than leather to the ravages of schoolboy activities.

GOOD SCOUTS

A note from a correspondent in India tells us something of the war work of Indian Scouts.

Definite details are known of the work done by 50,994 Boy Scouts. They are engaged in A.R.P. and Messenger services, in Civic Guards and Village Defence parties. Others collect and sort scrap, splice rope handles for ammunition boxes, distribute posters and pamphlets concerning recruiting for the fighting services, patrol harbours, write letters for soldiers, or entertain soldiers. And, of course, they collect for the Red Cross, while nearly £1500 has been raised for Scout Air Raid victims in England.

Well done, Scouts of India.

ABRIDGED

Finding that an abridged copy of a well-known book bought at a bookseller's in a New Zealand city had sixteen pages missing, the purchaser took it back the next day to get a good copy.

When the shopgirl was shown that the page after the forty-second was the fifty-ninth, she exclaimed, with a smile: "You see, it is an abridged edition."

STILL MORE SHIPS

UNITED Nations shipping losses from U-boat attacks in June, as the world knows, were very small; our gains from the shipyards in the same months were enormous.

The United States Maritime Commission reports that with the building in June of 168 ships the output of merchant ships in American shipyards in the first six months of this year rose to no less than 879 vessels of nearly 8,900,000 dead-weight tons. This was greater than the entire output of 1942, which was 747 vessels of 8,100,000 tons.

The vessels delivered in June included 116 Liberty ships each of 10,000 dead weight tons, 11 large high-speed tankers, three small tankers, in addition to various other vessels. It is said that one California shipyard alone delivered 20 big cargo ships in a month.

These facts from America alone, together with our record of successful attacks on submarines and the fact that 3000 ships of all sizes were used in our invasion of Sicily, certainly suggest that the shipping position has vastly improved for the United Nations.

TREASURE IN RUBBISH

It was thrilling the other day to hear that a new treasure has been found in old salvage.

Canada is far from Germany, but someone in the Dominion threw out a heap of paper for salvage, and in the heap was the music of seven concertos composed by a son of the immortal Bach. Written 200 years ago, the manuscript came from the hand of Karl Philipp Emanuel Bach, and experts are now satisfied that what was regarded as worthless is really a great discovery.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

From time to time instances of the woeful lack of interest shown by country people in local government have appeared in the CN. Here is a story giving a much more cheering picture.

Council meetings are open to the public, but the people so rarely take advantage of this privilege that when a man and a woman walked into a recent meeting of the Bridge-Blean (Kent) Rural District Council their presence caused a sensation. After they had explained that they were attending the meeting as "members of the public" the business of the council continued, but only after the amusement had died down.

A very different story concerns another Kent council, that of New Romney. One of its members lives at Willesborough, several miles from the town. Refusing to be beaten by travelling restrictions, this man drove to the last meeting of the council in a horse-drawn trap.

BOOKING HOMES FOR PEACE

It is reported from America that a hire-purchase system is extending to enable people to buy new houses to be erected after the war. As in this country, there is a great shortage of homes in America, and department stores are out to sell model houses in advance, types of which they display.

It has long been the practice in America for housing firms to offer to build complete homes, furnished ready for use. The war is giving the "own your own home" movement a great impetus.



TO SPEED THE PLOUGH

Forty scholarships in mechanised agriculture are being offered by the Henry Ford Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Boreham, Essex. The courses vary from one to three years, and are available to boys between the ages of 16 and 17 years.

Applicants must be of School Certificate standard, and have some practical experience in agriculture.

A NEW VOLCANO

A new volcano, to which the name of Paricutin has been given, has been formed this year in the Mexican state of Michoacan. A terrific explosion occurred under a field, and within a few weeks the volcano had risen to a height of 900 feet, with a diameter of nearly a mile. Ashes from the crater destroyed all crops within 12 miles, and were even blown over Mexico City, 180 miles distant.

The Maoris to the President

GIFTS of a symbolic nature carved by the Maoris of New Zealand have been sent to President and Mrs Roosevelt. They express the gratitude of the people of the Dominion, white and Maori, for the help given by the United States.

The gift for the President is a carved totara inkstand, the bowl of which is supported by two magnificently carved figures, with their hands, chins, and protruding tongues resting against the bowl. The complete stand is almost 12 inches high. Mrs Roosevelt's gift is a large round totara fruit bowl on a pedestal, both carved from the one piece of wood and beautifully adorned with typical Maori designs.

135 INTERESTS

Mr Albert Slater, a lawyer of Hyde, Cheshire, who has just celebrated his 80th birthday, holds a local and perhaps a national record for the number of honorary offices he has occupied. Until quite recently it was 135, covering almost every aspect of our national, charitable, and religious life. The number has now been reduced to 47, but after 57 years at his desk Mr Slater is still hard at work.

He has been a lay preacher for over 50 years and an active worker in the Sunday-school. His charitable work covers a long list of movements. When Arthur Mee's book on Cheshire was being written his visitors called at the two churches, Flowery Field and Hyde Chapel, with which Mr Slater has been associated as an active official for over 40 years.

The CN sends Mr Slater its good wishes and trusts that he will be able to carry on his good works for many more years.

The EDITOR'S TABLE

HALF A MILLION HOUSES NEEDED

THE Minister of Health, asked in Parliament for an estimate of the number of houses that would have to be built to provide each family with a separate dwelling, answered, "It is not possible to give a precise answer, but the figure is of the order of about half a million."

Mr Brown was also asked, with regard to post-war housing work, how many houses had been proposed by local authorities. Mr Brown said that the number of local authorities who had made proposals was 586, relating to 130,000 houses.

This seems a very small number, and we are glad, therefore, that M.P.s continue to be inquisitive on the subject.

Honesty 100 Per Cent

IF it were necessary to prove how essentially honest at heart the nation is no better testimony could be found than a recent statement by the Unemployment Assistance Board.

The Board has had to deal with many thousands of applications for financial assistance from people of all ranks who have suffered from air raids, and it states that the number of people who have tried to defraud is so small that it can be counted as nil!

The End of a Cigarette

IT has been stated recently that 200 million cigarettes are smoked every day in this country, or enough in three days to girdle the earth with hundreds of miles to spare. The average cost of these little things that go up in smoke being about ten for a shilling, the nation's daily cigarette bill is now £1,000,000.

If we think of the end that is merely thrown away, and assume it to be about one-fifth of a cigarette (it is often more, and seldom less), we find that the equivalent of about 40 million cigarettes, costing £200,000, is literally wasted every day. This is the bitter end with a vengeance.

Roadside Harvest

THOSE neat grass verges that fringed the by-pass roads and country lanes have gone from the English countryside, writes a Country Lover. The demands of the Services and war factories have made roadmen few and far between.

The result is not displeasing, although continued neglect may result in even concrete cycle tracks and footpaths being entirely covered. Richard Jefferies pictured an England where Nature over-ran the works of man; it is evident how quickly this can happen.

Those roadside strips are now a mass of waving grasses, purple knapweed, white moon daisies and splashes of vivid crimson poppies. Cyclists using the special tracks appear to be riding through overgrown meadows. Solitary hikers are half hidden from the convoys that rumble along trunk roads.

Occasionally one comes across a patch of short, green grass where a cottage dweller has kept his border neat and tidy.

Country folk often have a better social sense than town dwellers. Almost every old-

fashioned cottage has a few flowers outside the garden fence or hedge. They cheer the traveller, and welcome the wage-earner as he returns home; a much better thing than shutting in pleasant gardens with tall fences or quick-growing shrubs.

Despite the lack of manpower, the roadside is here and there providing a useful hay crop. Scythes are sweeping the tall grasses into smooth swathes, and ancient ponies, pulling even more ancient carts, carry small loads into the village. Honest sweat and skill with a scythe are the only price for many snug little stacks.

Throughout the year the roadside has been a scene of ever-changing colour. Chickweed, groundsel, and red dead-nettle covered the verges in February. Then came the yellow coltsfoot, followed by the more florid dandelion. Green, waving grass rose up in April, and in May there were masses of buttercups and white campions.

And now the hay is being gathered in. Yet the countryside hopes it will be the last roadside harvest during war.

MAKE AND MEND BETTER THAN SPEND

THE Board of Trade gave good news the other day in announcing an increase of nearly 20 per cent in the retail sales of dress materials during last May. This shows that more women are making their own dresses now, and who can deny that this is an excellent thing?

Some women have always taken a pride in being clever with their needle, and it is a good thing that this craftsmanship is now perforce coming back into favour. Even in the snobbish Victorian days, the young woman of the comfortable classes, who was not allowed, much less expected, to earn her own living, was usually expected to be able to "make and mend" much of

her own wardrobe. Her more modern successor has lost much of this art in the stress of office life. Yet today, with work and worry more exacting than ever, women are managing somehow to make for themselves the clothes they can no longer buy.

Women themselves underestimated the value of this inherited craftsmanship which they had been losing. Do we realise that it is the skill of these same women's hands which is now, in the machine-shops and tool-rooms and other war factories great and small, making it possible for us to equip the armies of liberation for Europe and the whole world? We did not know, until this war taught us the real facts, that a sewing-machine was a precision instrument.

Awful Warning to Queue-Lovers

WE all know people who join queues from force of habit rather than need, but we think they would end their habitual queueing if they had the curious experience of a certain old lady in a Northern town.

This dear lady, who never could resist a queue, hopefully joined a slow-moving procession outside a block of buildings. It wasn't a talkative queue, neither did it wear that aura of happy expectancy surrounding those who visualise strawberries or tomatoes (or perhaps both) at their journey's end. No, if anything, it was rather a mournful queue, but the old lady stuck to her guns and her basket, only to find herself eventually inside a police court!

She had joined a queue of malefactors summoned to the court for not taking their places in a bus queue.

JUST AN IDEA

One ought every day at least to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if possible, speak a few reasonable words.

Under the Editor's Table

FISH is in the news. Housewives prefer it in the newspaper.

WHAT is our future at sea? asks a writer. Not all at sea.

THERE was a bone-begging competition at a Southend dog show. A sit up tea instead of a sit down one.

AN M.P. says he can recite poetry for five hours on end if the need arises. His friends will take care he doesn't.

SOME London buses are to have wooden seats. A matter of form.

CHILDREN grow out of their clothes. And in them.

Peter Puck Wants to Know

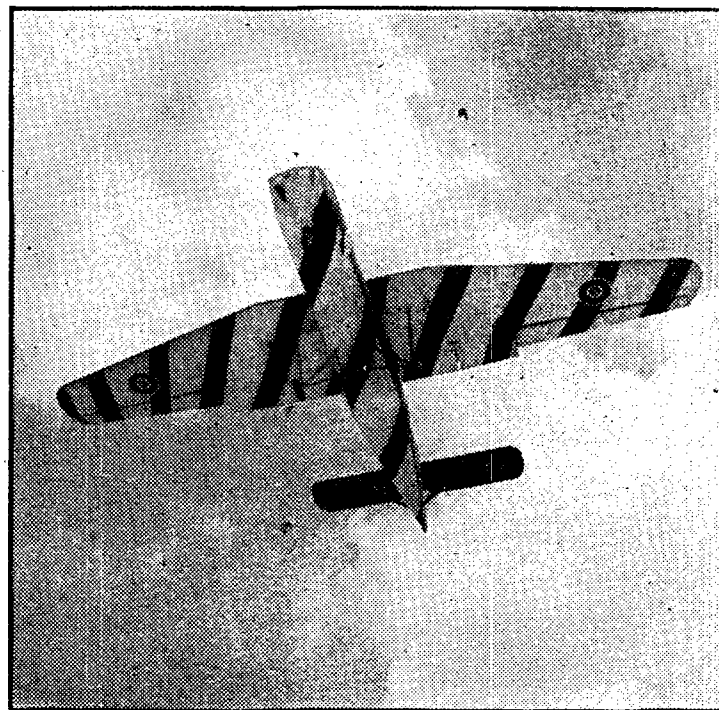


If people in cake queues take the cake

A MAN has invented a system for improving the memory. But can't remember what it is.

TWO rashers of bacon have been found in a library book. Food for thought.

WE are to have less chocolate. Will it be barred?



Airborne

The use of glider troops in Sicily lends interest to this picture of a Horsa in flight, a type used by our airborne divisions

Where Ignorance is Bliss

AN old CN reader now serving in Tunisia still finds cause to marvel at the ignorance of the Arabs. That they should be so ignorant of the affairs of the war and of the world in general when they live within a few miles of civilisation makes him believe that nowhere else could such lack of knowledge and interest be revealed.

But the Arabs are by no means the first or only people to remain oblivious to great events taking place round them. It was a greater soldier than our friend ever hopes to be, the immortal Duke of Wellington, who told Disraeli that when Napoleon was the most talked-of man in the world, and had been Emperor of France for a year, the Paris police reported a curiosity to him. They had discovered in Montmartre, which is part of Paris, a woodcutter who had never heard of Napoleon, who knew nothing of the execution of Louis XVI, and was ignorant of the fact that there had been a French Revolution!

Such was the story that the old warrior Prime Minister told the younger man, who was himself later to become Premier. From the time of his great vic-

tory at Waterloo in 1815 until his death 37 years later Wellington was the most famous Englishman.

One of his friends, a Member of Parliament named Roebuck, was staying at a country house when news arrived of the great man's passing. Going into the garden, Roebuck said to a respected old gardener who was mowing the lawn, "There is bad news come." "Is there, sir?" replied the veteran. "Yes, the Duke's dead at last." "Who, sir?" the old man queried. "The Duke of Wellington." The patriarch went on with his work. "I'm very sorry for the gentleman, sir, but I never heard of him," he placidly replied.

So let us not despise the inert, uninquiring Arabs. Their ancestors once, with reason, regarded our ancestors as dull and unimaginative. The Arabs were then the thinkers, the scholars, investigators, and intellectual questioners. They kept learning alive in Europe for centuries when all but themselves had sunk into the ignorance of the Dark Ages that followed the overthrow of civilisation by the barbarian predecessors of Hitler.

The Parson With the Notebook

GILBERT WHITE, who died 150 years ago this summer, was the author of the *Natural History of Selborne*. This is as much a classic and possesses the same kind of charm as Izaak Walton's *Compleat Angler*.

In these days when libraries are besieged for books of real worth children old and young may well read the *Natural History of Selborne* both for real pleasure and for help in how to observe accurately and in wonderful detail all that is going on in the natural world around them.

Gilbert White was a parson, one of a family who had been Hampshire clergymen for generations. He was greatly beloved

as he rode about on his little pony, with the New Forest and the Hampshire streams for his observation grounds. He kept a commonplace book for noting down his speculations into the laws of nature before the days of anything like so ambitious a work as Darwin's *Origin of Species*.

Probably Gilbert White had no intention of publishing his notes as he jotted them down, and they often went as letters to his friends; but they are so clear, so scholarly and graceful in style, and so full of love, particularly for his birds, that his book has been described as "the most delightful on natural history in the language."

A PLAN FOR THE NEW LONDON

Remodelling the Capital in 50 Years

Two years ago, when Lord Reith was Minister of Works, he suggested that a great scheme for the re-development of the County of London area after the war should be made, and now we have before us a remarkable plan made for the London County Council by Mr J.H. Forshaw, the architect to the Council, and Professor Patrick Abercrombie. It is published in a well-illustrated book of nearly 200 pages and costs 12s 6d.

It is impossible to examine its fascinating pages without being struck by the ability and devotion which have produced so fine a result, upon which its authors are to be congratulated.

It aims at the complete remodelling of the capital in all its aspects of housing and architecture, of communications, of industry, of recreation and culture, of public services, of open spaces, and of means of recreation, not forgetting the full and proper use of that fine factor, the river upon which it is built.

Three Ring Roads

We may well begin our review of the plan by referring to the basic road proposals. The aims have been to improve traffic circulation, to reduce accidents, to separate fast, long-distance traffic from purely local traffic, and to maintain existing communities free from through traffic. London will be girdled by a ring road, as has been suggested before. Actually there will be three circles: the inmost will serve central London and link the main termini; the second will serve the docks and link Fulham, Kensington, Chelsea, with Clapham to the south, and Regents Park to the north; the third will run generally with the circumference of the county. These ring roads will be joined by nine arterial radial roads, running from the inmost ring out to various parts of the land.

More Open Space

On the question of open spaces it is suggested that a standard provision of four acres for every 1000 people should be made. This provision would include many kinds of open space—parks, playing fields, children's play centres, rest gardens, formal squares, riverside pleasaunces, and so on. It is estimated that 13,316 acres are required, of which 7880 now exist.

It is good to find that the planners are interested in the development of the river front, and would make it available to the people, wherever possible. Only nine per cent of the river front in the County of London is now used for public open space, and the planners propose to increase this to 30 per cent. A very striking Thames-side proposal is that of the south bank, from the County Hall to Southwark Cathedral, which includes new bridges at the Temple and Charing Cross. The ugly railway bridge would at long last be removed, trains for Charing Cross station coming under the river.

It is proposed to equip this section of the south bank with a continuous stretch of grass and a wide esplanade, possibly including in the layout a great cultural centre, a theatre and concert hall, and so on. There will be a fine open view of Southwark Cathedral, and the prospect from the CN window will be delightful.

One of the chief concerns of the plan is naturally with

housing, and the question of flats versus houses arises. It is pointed out that it would be impracticable to rehouse all the citizens who require new dwellings in single family houses, particularly of the detached or semi-detached type, in the central parts of London. A large number of flats must be included. The planners also direct attention to certain advantages of terraced houses, in that they are economical to build and lend themselves to pleasing architecture; often private gardens can be arranged at the back of terraces.

There will have to be an exodus of 600,000 people from the present LCC area, and this raises serious questions of the localisation of industry. This exodus was already happening, in an unplanned way, before the war.

Retaining the Good

This is not a report which ruthlessly seeks to make drastic changes. It seeks to preserve all that is good and beautiful. It also seeks to preserve the communities which have originated in the past; though their boundaries may have been lost, their centres are often clearly marked, descended as they are from ancient villages. It is held that it should be one of the first objectives of the planners to mark more clearly the identities of these communities, to preserve them from disturbing intrusion, and generally to reconstruct them where reconstruction is necessary through war damage or decay.

Moreover, such communities could be divided into smaller "neighbourhood units" of between 6000 and 10,000 persons, related to the school and the area each serves. Children thus will not have to cross a main road on their way to school, and each unit would have its own open space. Such neighbourhood units might be so planned as to make effective architectural use of churches or other fine existing buildings.

Preserving Precincts

It is sought also to preserve certain precincts by defining areas of established character or culture. Thus we can name Westminster Precinct, around the Abbey and Houses of Parliament; the Temple Precinct; a University Precinct which would include London University Building, University College, the British Museum, and several neighbouring squares. Into this precinct only some half dozen entrances would be available for local traffic, the others being closed.

This magnificent plan, it is thought, could be carried out within 50 years, so that many CN readers may hope to see this new and worthy London arise.

CARRY ON

Cast Up the Highway

ENGLAND, thou art dependent on thy God,

Whose arm, of old, hath kept thy people free;

Repent of sin beneath the chastening rod

And from the wrath to come make haste to flee.

In humbleness beseech the Father's aid

To guard the right in each distressing hour;

Pray that the victory be not delayed

Which comes from exercise of Heavenly power.

Ring out the Gospel of God's sovereign grace,

That wandering sheep may hear the Spirit's call;

Let Christ's great message sound in every place

Until at length God shall be All in All.

Make way for Him Who earth's salvation brings;

Cast up the highway for the King of Kings. T. Pittaway

OUR NEW ORDER

DEMOCRACY is a promise, a method of evolution, a maturing way of living, a conception of human relations that is rooted deep in the yearnings of many races and peoples. If this war has meaning and purpose it is to extend the idea of democracy vertically in America and horizontally throughout the world, wherever the soil is ready.

Here is a faith worth fighting for. Hitler boasts of his "new order." We have a new order, too, based on the capacity of each generation to experience what Lincoln called "a new birth of freedom." The Nazis extol the virility of totalitarianism. In the evolution of democracy we have a world that is always young.

The Rockefeller Foundation Review

One Who Never Changes

My soul, there is a country
Far beyond the stars,
Where stands a winged sentry
All skilful in the wars:
There, above noise and danger,
Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles,

And One born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.
He is thy gracious Friend,
And—O my soul, awake!—
Did in pure love descend
To die here for thy sake.
If thou canst get but thither,
There grows the flower of Peace,
The Rose that cannot wither,
Thy fortress, and thy ease.
Leave then thy foolish ranges;
For none can thee secure
But One who never changes—
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

Henry Vaughan

THE IMPULSE

WHAT I look to is a time when the impulse to help our fellows shall be as immediate and irresistible as the impulse I feel to grasp something given when I am falling.

George Eliot

A Little Tale From Galilee

A CERTAIN man had two sons, and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

Not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. When he had spent all there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want; and he joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat; and no man gave unto him.

When he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise, and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants.

And he arose, and came to his father; but when he was yet a great way off his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran and kissed him.

The son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no

more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat, and be merry, for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and drew nigh to the house he heard music and dancing; and he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.

He said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, for he hath received him safe and sound.

He was angry, and would not go in; therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment; and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends; but as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.

And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad; for this thy brother was dead and is alive again; and was lost, and is found. St Luke

A THOUGHT

AN awful thought it is that man has in his mind the will to plan Events: does he but close a door, His deed persists for evermore.

Should he but open one, then he Opens it for eternity.
The lives of millions shall be changed
Through one act by one man arranged.
Marjorie Wilson

Where We Are Going

I FIND the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.
Oliver Wendell Holmes

A MAN & HIS DOG

I WOULD not give much for that man's Christianity whose dog did not benefit by it.
Rowland Hill



THIS ENGLAND The village of Blidworth, Nottinghamshire, in the heart of Sherwood Forest

"Green Grow the Grasses, O"

THE scorched earth is not likely to blossom as the rose very soon after the war ends, but experiments to ensure that its usefulness is restored as soon as possible are being made.

A group of men at Big Flats, New York, are testing all kinds of grass seed, to discover which will make good pasture, which will be useful to hold road-banks together, which will be the best to use for reclaiming waste land, which should be planted in orchards, and so on. The most promising grasses are being tried out on a larger scale in different parts of the United States, and if they come up to expectation their seeds will be collected in great

quantities ready for use in Europe and Asia.

A less pleasant grass experiment is being made in a Civilian Public Service camp, where teams of men are eating varying amounts of grass to see how far it is useful as human food. This is because some experts estimate that the only way to feed the starving Continent of Europe immediately after the war will be by using a considerable quantity of grass. Up to date the results seem promising, for the team eating the largest amount of grass beat the others at football. But it is credibly reported that the experimenters do not really enjoy their diet!



Kenya Guides

Guides will recognise this as the fire-making test, which requires a camp-fire to be lighted with only one match. The Guides belong to a Nairobi Company and the girls come from India and the Seychelles

A NEGRO SCHOOL'S BIRTHDAY

SCHOFIELD SCHOOL at Aiken, South Carolina, has been celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. It is one of a number of schools started by American Friends for slaves freed by the Civil War, and the scholars are all Negroes. The Directors are mainly white Americans, but two Negro women have recently been added to the Board.

Part of the celebration consisted of the planting of 600 rose trees given by Robert Pyle, a Pennsylvania rose-grower who is well known in Europe as well as in America.

High Schools for Negroes are few and far between, and many of Schofield's pupils live too far away to come in daily; though buses are provided for white school children, coloured children still have to walk, however far they are from school. So Schofield has a boarding department, and those children whose parents cannot afford to pay twelve dollars a month for their

board and education help to make up the cost by working in the gardens. The school is not rich; its library, which has to serve the whole coloured community of Aiken as well as the scholars, contains only books which have been given; and in order to provide cakes for visitors on the Open Day the girls had each to bring ingredients from home. The dining-room curtains are made from flour sacks, attractively decorated by the girls; the boys have laid a new floor to the sewing-room and have painted its walls.

The school is making some headway in improving relationships between black and white people in Aiken where there is still much official segregation. When the three Negro churches gave a musical performance at the school as part of the anniversary celebrations, about a third of the audience of over 1000 people was white.

MALTA, G C, HAS A GOOD RATION NOW

"WE have a nice ration" was a sentence from a letter which Sir Harry Luke read out at the first meeting of the newly-founded Malta League the other day. Sir Harry is a former Governor of Malta, and the letter came from a former servant, telling him how good things were in the George Cross Island now that the round-the-clock bombings were over and supplies could come in freely.

Speaking of the ignorance of Malta by the British, and the long-felt need for an organisation like the Malta League, to bring Maltese and British friends of Malta together, Sir Harry said that today we do know something of Malta and what she means, and what her spirit is like. But it should not, he said, have taken a world-wide war to make the lesson plain. The Maltese were just the same, just as tough, just as calm, just as well able to "take it" when he was out there as Governor in 1935. That was the year of Sanctions against Italy for her attack on Abyssinia. We were weak then, and our Navy was in no position to dominate the Mediterranean against the forces which might have been ranged against it. All that the Home Government could tell him of the situation was that "anything might happen, any day"—not very comforting for a tiny island only 60 miles from Sicily! But it never occurred to the Maltese to be nervous.

The Worst Days

Their contempt for all things Italian was as complete as their regard for all things British; and if the British Navy, their pride and joy, could not come to their aid for the time being, why then, they would look after themselves.

The Hon. Mabel Strickland, editor of the now-famous Times of Malta, is a vice-president of the new League, and she was there to speak about the worst days of all, from June to November of last year, when to the horror of daily raids there was added the ever-increasing danger of starvation, not removed until the victory of El Alamein opened up "Bomb Alley." On a daily dole of 10½ oz. of bread, the Maltese were very near to the extremes of hunger; but even so, the men and women reserved everything they could save, including their microscopic ration of sugar, for the children.

What brave Miss Strickland did not add was that her newspaper came out on time every day, from its underground offices in Malta's deep and safe-cavern shelters, no matter how much bombing there was, and its distribution did not cease merely because the sirens wailed. She caused much amusement by remarking that everyone put on weight in November and December to celebrate the victory.

HOUSE OF STUDY

Readers of the CN interested in the House of Study advocated by Sir Richard Livingstone, and described in our last issue, will find this idea fully dealt with in Citizen Centres for Adult Education, a booklet published at 6d by the Educational Settlements Association, 8 Endsleigh Gardens, London, WC1.

War Pensions Go Up

AS in the First World War, there has been great argument about war pension rates, and Parliament is soon to discuss a Government White Paper greatly improving the rates and conditions of pensions. In this document it is made clear that the onus of proving that a Service man is entitled to a pension does not rest on the claimant but that it will continue to be the duty of the Pensions Minister to reach a decision based on an impartial view of the case.

Again, while the Government has rejected the principle of "Fit for Service—Fit for Pension," it accepts the view that if a man is accepted for service in this war it is presumptive evidence that at the time of acceptance he was fit for the Service demanded in his medical category, and that if he is later discharged on medical grounds any deterioration in his health is due to his service.

In this connection, accidents in the following categories will be regarded as attributable to service: those sustained while walking out in spare time, or while travelling to and from home on short pass-leave, or not more than 48 hours, unless of a compassionate nature or while travelling to or from duty when the member has been allowed to live in private accommodation.

Here are some points of importance in the detailed figures:

The full or 100 per cent disability pension is, for the lowest ranks, raised from 37s to 40s with similar 2s 6d increases for other ranks. For officers, the 100 per cent disability pension is increased by £15 to £210 a year.

In family allowances for 100 per cent disability, in the case of "other ranks" there is an increase from 9s 2d to 10s for wife; from 7s 1d to 7s 6d for first child; 5s 6d to 6s for each other child. As to widows, where a widow is over 40, or under 40 with pensionable children, there are increases from 25s to 26s 8d for lowest rank; 29s to 31s 3d for a sergeant's widow; and so on.

In the case of pensions paid to widows of other ranks with children, these will be supplemented by a sum equal to the rent and rates paid over 8s a week; the maximum extra help will be 12s a week when rent and rates come to 20s or more. Thus, the widow of a private with one child, who at present receives 24s 6d, will get under the new rate 36s 2d if her rent is 8s or under, 43s 2d if she pays 15s rent, and 48s 2d if the rent is over 20s.

Then there is the case of unemployable men. The standard rate of pensions for an unemployable seriously disabled Serviceman is to be supplemented by 10s a week, bringing the lowest allowance up to 60s if the man is married, and to 50s if single. With regard to the difficult question of parents' pensions, the Government does not propose to revive the 5s flat rate parents' pensions for the loss of a son or daughter, but generous provisions for the determination of need are made.

Maximum rates will be raised from 10s a week for one parent and 12s 6d for two (with an additional 6s 6d in exceptional cases), to 15s and 20s and 22s 6d for two (with 7s 6d for exceptional cases).

With regard to Civil Defence, pensions of members of the Civil Defence and for civilians are to be at the new rates applicable to a private soldier. Also, members of the Merchant Navy and Naval Auxiliary Services will receive the increased naval rates.

AUSTRALIAN STORY

IF visiting Service men from Australia in England know the history of their island continent they may wish to know of the whereabouts of a certain tea-caddy which deserves to be the most famous of all tea-caddies.

When Admiral Phillip planted our first colony in Australia, he took with him the wooden framework of a house that had been put together in London, but, desiring to construct timber houses for the rest of the colonists, he found the native trees as strange as the native animals. The wood would not float in water, nor could it be shaped, for it was too hard to be worked by any of their tools.

So, by the first ship that sailed for home, the admiral sent out a piece of this mysterious wood as

a present for the grandfather of Charles Kingsley, whose brother Henry told us that it was made into a tea-caddy, adding, "It is still in the family."

The original Australian colonists, unable to work the native timber, set to work to build with stone, but there was no available mortar, so they burned all the sea shells they could find and made lime from these.

The old tea-caddy from Australia may be seen for inspection, but not those blue stones that Henry Kingsley used to throw away in disgust when he went to Australia as a gold-digger. He was tired of seeing them, until one day, when he asked an expert what they were, he learned that he had been throwing sapphires away!

Ten Million Colours

NO greater tribute can be paid to the power of the human eye than to say that it can see 10,000,000 different colours.

Even in the bright days of summertime it is hard to believe, but that is the number authenticated by the U S National Bureau of Standards, which encouragingly adds that 319 names of them are ample for everyday use. An example may serve to show

the meaning of these surprising numbers. In the reddish part of the rainbow we see orange, apricot yellow, and red, and could discern others if we try, because nine are said to be easily seen. The variety arises from the names chemists and paint manufacturers and dress designers have coined for the varying shades, such as Algerian sands for pinkish grey.

BRITISH SHIPPING AFTER THE WAR

THE House of Commons recently debated that all-important question, what is to be our shipping policy after the war. On a main point, the Government was at one with Parliament; there was general agreement that our Mercantile Marine must have a large and efficient fleet, and by efficient is meant not only quality of material but the best attainable conditions of employment of officers and men. The Government added, again with general approval, that it was prepared to collaborate with other like-minded governments in establishing efficient and economic conditions.

But who is to own and control this efficient instrument of commerce? Attention was called in the debate to the extraordinary fact that whereas Britain began the war with a shipping tonnage of about 20,000,000, it was likely to have to end it with a tonnage of only 9,000,000, while the United States, who began the war with a tonnage of only 7,000,000 might well end the conflict with 15,000,000 to 30,000,000 tons. We have to remember that in dealing with shipping as a competitive industry, we should when peace came face not the President and Vice-President of America as emblems of collaboration, but American big business.

As previously stated in a Government White Paper, the Ministry of War Transport has concluded negotiations with our shipowners to the effect that merchant vessels built for war purposes are allocated as built to the various shipping companies to become their private property after the war, and after the lapse of a period to be determined.

Mr Noel Baker, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of War Transport, said that unless a new decision was reached by Parliament the Government ships would go to the shipowners. Nevertheless, the Government were determined to do their utmost to bring about cooperation among the Shipping Powers and cooperation also between the Shipping Powers and the rest. It is clear that the Government policy is still that of its White Paper, and will so remain unless Parliament makes a different decision.

Sir Arthur Salter, returned from his important shipping duties at Washington, took part in the debate, and directed attention to the splendid assistance given by America at critical periods in the last two years. He said that in March, 1941, our imports amounted to little more than half our pre-war imports and were falling rapidly; our stocks were dangerously low. At that time American action was restricted by the Neutrality Act, which made it illegal for American ships to go into a war zone.

President Roosevelt promptly removed the Red Sea from the war zone. Then, with Japan in the war, came the second crisis, which in the summer of 1942 proved to be very serious. The American building programme was then raised to nearly 20,000,000 tons, with a declaration that increased building was not for the American war effort alone, but on behalf of all the Allied Nations. Sir Arthur rejoiced in these practical instances of collaboration which promised well for the future.

for white buttons, but only, states one of the officers, "if they had four holes in them." But he did not have time to find out why. The party were of the opinion that their best day was when they saw a flight of Allied bombers overhead—a delightful sight that was almost more memorable than the day on which they at last reached civilisation. Many such heroic tales are stored up to be told some day. The war in New Guinea has called for individual heroism and endurance on a gigantic scale. They have added to the world's stock of daring and unselfishness.

Through the Wilds of New Guinea

HERE is the story of how twenty-seven refugees, ranging from a nine-month old baby to men of seventy, got through the jungles of New Guinea while the Japanese were invading the island.

They were Chinese who stayed on until the last moment in New Guinea and then had to be taken to safety by three members of the New Guinea District Service.

The journey meant a trek of 600 miles through some of the wildest country in the world, from Wewak to the Sepik River.

Much of the country behind Wewak and the Sepik is uncontrolled, and it was not long before the officers were passing through territory that was new to them. Sometimes carrying the weaker members of the party, living on rice and kau-kau and whatever food they could barter from the natives, for six weeks they threaded their way along vague mountain roads, across raging torrents, and through swamps teeming with mosquitoes.

The safety of the party depended entirely upon the three white men and their knowledge of the country and its natives, their idea of direction, and their bush-craft. All, at one time or another, suffered intermittent malaria. The natives, although "uncontrolled," were friendly, willing enough to trade kau-kau for beads and cowrie shells—and

The Tented Field

ENEMY aircraft making camouflage necessary, we see less than in previous wars of picturesque tented fields at home or nearer the battle fronts.

Tents, however, are a serious item of expenditure. In the last war they cost us £9,000,000 and during the years of peace we spent £200,000 a year on renewals.

Tents and other textile fabrics for military use undergo rapid deterioration, with light as the principal agent, while next come micro-organisms, which, especially in hot, damp climates, attack the cellulose in the fabrics. The life of a military tent in our climate is only a year; in the tropics the period is but eight or ten months.

There is still something to be learned in combating these twin evils, to say nothing of the effects of chemical action. Sufficient has been learned, however, to prove that the instinct of the housewife in screening her carpets and upholstered furniture from direct sunlight is sound and scientific.

Famous Russian Names in Hollywood

Chekhov, Tolstoy, and Chaliapin are names which were world-famous in the old Russia. They figure again in the patriotic film called *Russia* which is now in production in Hollywood.

Michael Chekhov is the nephew of Anton Chekhov, the playwright whose work we admire so much for its calm beauty and the dramatic power behind the even flow of its quiet speech. André Tolstoy is a grandson of Count Leo Tolstoy, immortal both as a novelist and as a pioneer of Russian freedom. Feodor Chaliapin, son of the magnificent bass singer whose lively and good-natured personality was so well known in London, bears the same Christian name as his father.

The young Chekhov and the young Chaliapin play parts in the new film, and the young Tolstoy is a technical adviser. Michael Chekhov is a newcomer to Hollywood, and was until recently working at a theatrical school near New York. Feodor Chaliapin Junior has been in Hollywood for some time, but has divided his time between music, painting, and acting. André Tolstoy is well established in the film metropolis as a capable technician.

The Oldest Jellyfish

A jellyfish is the claimant for the title of the oldest fossil. Its form was imprinted on the earliest sandstone that was laid down in the deep Grand Canyon of Colorado, before the rocks and fossils of the Cambrian geologic era appeared.

The Cambrian Era is assigned a date of 550 million years ago for its beginning, and 70 million years for its duration. In it are found shells and other traces of all the living things except those with backbones; and before it no animals have been found because none had even shells. The jellyfish found now in Colorado left an imprint of its form, and if its claim is allowed should be regarded as the oldest fossil.

The late Sir Edgeworth David found traces of creatures as old in Australian rock, but the claim was disputed.

CHINA'S CITY OF SPLENDID HOPE

CHUNGKING, the wonderful inland metropolis which Chiang Kai-shek has created from one of the world's most ancient surviving cities, is more fortunate than London in at least two respects—its remote situation and its climate.

It takes only 20 minutes for a Nazi sneak-raider to reach the heart of the British Empire, but no Japanese aeroplane can reach Chungking for at least an hour after taking off from the nearest aerodrome. The Chinese have an extraordinarily effective system of passing on the news when the raiders do start, so that the inhabitants are well sheltered by the time the bombs begin to fall. What is more, Chungking's deep rocky cliffs provide protection as good as that in Malta.

Chiang Kai-shek's capital may not be well off in the matter of anti-aircraft defence, but here again it has a special protection of its own in the cloud, fog, and rain which hide it for many months on end, and make the task of the Jap bomber very difficult. For this reason they say in Chungking that "a good day is a bad day, and a bad day is a good day."

However, because China is now in the seventh year of war, Chungking has had more than her ration of bombing. But when Germany and Italy have been defeated the Allies will be able to concentrate their attention upon Japan, and air-raids on Chungking will be things of the past. When that happy time

arrives Chungking means to become the nerve centre of a mighty nation, a city where the best that East and West alike have to offer may be set to the service of the common man.

Chungking, which can give shelter to half a million people in its rock-refuges, has no blackout, not merely because there is such ample time for warning, but because the pulling of a single switch in the city's main powerhouse turns off all electric light, an adaptability to modern ideas which is the great hope of the New China. Not that Chungking, for most part, is anything but a traditional Chinese city, with many things calling out for drastic reform, notably sanitation and water supply.

It is amazing, however, how much has been done to make the city safe and habitable under constant threat of ruthless attack. Amazing, too, is the way the teeming inhabitants have managed to order their lives in circumstances of almost incredible difficulty and privation, giving a generous share of all they have to their fellow-citizens driven from other parts of China by the invader.

Chungking may be a city of alerts and other problems; but it is also a city of splendid hope.



Mother! Give Constipated Child 'California Syrup of Figs'

Children love the pleasant taste of 'California Syrup of Figs' brand laxative, and gladly take it even when bilious, feverish, sick or constipated. No other laxative regulates the tender little bowels so nicely. It sweetens the stomach and stimulates the liver and bowels without cramping or over-acting. Millions of mothers depend upon this gentle, harmless laxative. Tell your chemist you want 'California Syrup of Figs,' which has full directions for babies and children of all ages. Obtainable everywhere, 1s. 4d. and 2s. 6d. Mother, you must say 'CALIFORNIA.'

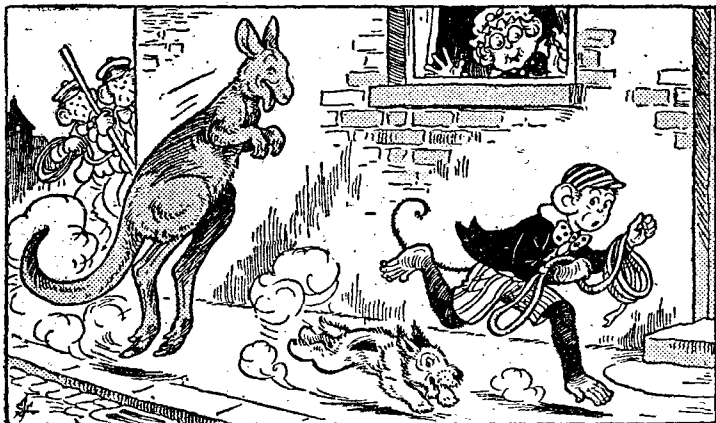
"On the job?"
EAT BERMALINE BREAD
for its greater nourishment



Ask your Baker or write BERMALINE IBROX GLASGOW

THE BRAN TUB

Jacko the Hunted



WHEN it was announced that a kangaroo had escaped from a visiting menagerie Jacko expressed his intention of joining in the hunt. "I rather fancy myself with a lasso," he confided to Bouncer. They set off bravely enough, but they hardly expected to meet the kangaroo so soon, and certainly they had no idea that it was such a big fellow. As the kangaroo bounded towards Jacko and Bouncer they turned tail and fled. Far from being the hunters they became the hunted!

The Only Difference

CUSTOMER: You say you have tea at 8d and 10d a quarter. What is the difference?

Shop Assistant (under notice of dismissal): Twopence, madam.

SIMPLE

SAID a learned Professor of Slough, When asked by a visitor "How Would you deal with a cat Which went mad on your mat?" "I should waggle my whiskers and meow!"

Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, July 28, to Tuesday, August 3.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 She went for a ride on a Tiger, a fantasy by Geoffrey Dearmer. 5.40 Your Garden This Month, by H. G. Fleet. 5.55 Prayers.

THURSDAY, 5.20 A Story; followed by Male Voice Singers, and a Recorded Feature.

FRIDAY, 5.20 A Lancashire Fairy Tale; followed by Songs by the Three Semis. 5.50 Olive Shapley's Letter from America.

SATURDAY, 5.20 Tommy Handley in The House that Tom Built, a summer pantomime, written by Dorothy Worsley and produced by Sam Jones.

SUNDAY, 5.20 Grieg, a play from the series The Music Makers, by L. du Garde Peach—an old favourite repeated to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Edward Grieg.

MONDAY, 5.20 Scottish Variety—The Wee Hoose by the Burn, Words and Music by R. G. McCullum, with a section of the Scottish Variety Orchestra, conducted by Ronnie Munro.

TUESDAY, 5.30 Out with Romany.



HIS COMPLAINT

FREDDIE's father is a gardener, and Freddie's mother believes in keeping Freddie clean. She says he must have a bath every day, and Freddie rebels against this.

Last week he and his mother happened to meet a friend. "Hallo," exclaimed the friend, "how you are growing, Freddie!"

"Yes," was the disgusted reply, "and so would you if you were watered as much as I am!"

Ten Tongue Twisters

ONE old Oxford ox opening oysters.

Two teetotallers totally tired of trying to trot to Teddington.

Three tall tigers taking tea.

Four Frenchmen fanning fainting flies.

Five fishermen fishing for frogs.

Six sportsmen shooting some snipe.

Seven Severn salmon swallowing shrimps.

Eight energetic Englishmen eagerly examining Europe.

Nine nimble noblemen nibbling knobs.

Ten tinkers tinkering ten tinder boxes with tenpenny tacks.

Twinkle, Twinkle Up to Date

WRINKLES, wrinkles, solar star. I obtain of what you are, When unto the noonday sky I the spectroscope apply;

For the spectrum renders clear Gaps within your photosphere, Also sodium in the bar

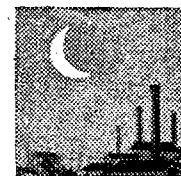
Which your rays yield, solar star.

The Geysers of Yellowstone Park

SOME remarkable things are to be seen in Yellowstone National Park, America's huge pleasure ground in the Rockies. It contains 3000 hot springs and about a hundred geysers, some of them of enormous size. One of them, Old Faithful, sends up a column of hot water two feet wide and over 125 feet high at intervals of just over an hour, the eruptions lasting some four minutes; the Giant, on the other hand, erupts for 90 minutes at a time at intervals of from two to four days. The geysers in eruption are a splendid spectacle, and thousands of people come to see them.

Other Worlds

IN the evening Venus is low in the west. In the morning Saturn is in the south-east and Mars is in the south. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 8 o'clock Double Summer Time, on the morning of Wednesday, July 28.



Showing Proper Respect

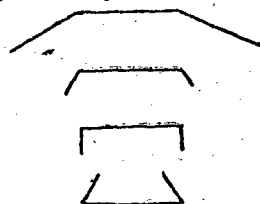
MANY years ago, when class distinctions were very strictly observed, a nobleman in Lancashire received from his steward a letter which had this postscript:

"I beg your lordship will excuse me for having taken the liberty of writing this in my shirt sleeves, but the excessive heat has compelled me to be guilty of this disrespect."

The Children's Newspaper, July 31, 1943

AN EYE TEST

Look at the horizontal lines in the four figures shown here and think what is their relative length. They seem to vary a



good deal in length, but measure them with a ruler and see for yourself.

Six Riddles About Animals

ADD half a score to nothing and what animal does it make? Cr. What is worse than a giraffe with a sore throat? A centipede with chilblains.

What animals grow on grape vines? Gray apes (grapes).

What small animal is turned into a large one by being be-headed? A fox—ox.

What is the difference between a man struck with amazement and a leopard's tail? One is rooted to the spot and the other is spotted to the root.

Which animal never travels without luggage? The elephant, because he always has his trunk with him.

V	I	N	E	R	A	B	L	E
A	E	R	A	S	E	D		
S	E	E	R	K	N	E	E	
E	N	D	O	W	D	I	N	
S		R	I	D				
C	U	T		N	E	V	E	R
H	E	R	O		B	A	R	E
E		U	N	I	T	S		A
F	R	E	E		S	T	O	P

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

What are the Numbers? 8, 12, 20, 5
Missing Words: Rates, tares, tears, stare, aster

BEDTIME CORNER

SILVER DAY

THE Darkness slowly gained upon the Light

"My rule has come," he said; "Let there be night."

And into every corner, far and wide,

His great grey wings spread outward like a tide,

Then suddenly a little night bird's song

Broke through the grey; a glow-worm passed along;

The moon and stars hung banners overhead.

Is this the night, or silver day? we said.

Marjorie Wilson

The Town and Country Mouse

A COUNTRY mouse received a visit from another mouse who lived in the town. He did his best to provide the town mouse with nice food, but the town mouse said: "How can you put up with this little hole in a farmyard when you might come to town and live in a fine house?"

He persuaded the country mouse to go with him to town, and they arrived at the house where the town mouse lived. Here the country mouse found everything very comfortable. He sat on a rich carpet and ate scraps of all manner of good things. He was enjoying himself very much when suddenly the noise of someone opening the door and the barking of two or three dogs that came running in nearly frightened the country

mouse out of his wits, and he was only just able to escape.

When he recovered his breath, he exclaimed: "If this is town life it will not do for me. I would rather have my poor hole in the farmyard, where I can live in peace and safety."

Do not envy rich people, for they often have more trouble than the poor.



A Posy For Mother AT HOME

GOD give me sympathy and sense, And help me keep my courage high. God give me calm and confidence; And, please, a twinkle in my eye.

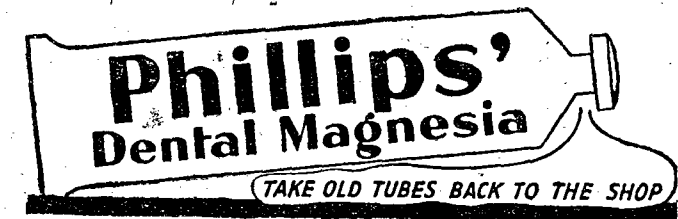
RITA SNOWDEN

Her teeth are YOUR concern-

Every mother wants her children to grow up with strong, firm white teeth, safe from the danger of decay. The way to make sure of this is by giving the right care when they are young. Dentists advise the use of the one toothpaste containing 'Milk of Magnesia', which corrects acid mouth, so often the cause of dental trouble.

The toothpaste to ask for is Phillips' Dental Magnesia. Train your children to use it night and morning. They love its pleasant, mild flavour.

1/1d. and 1/10½d.



* 'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.